THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) As per the information furnished by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), it has come to their notice that some foreign institutions/ universities are operating in India offering various programmes in Engineering & Technology. AICTE has notified Regulations dated 3rd April 2003 for Entry and Operation of Foreign Universities/ Institutions imparting technical education in India. AICTE has also constituted a Task Force to implement the Regulations from the academic year 2003-2004.

Revamping higher education

4410. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revamp higher education with flexibility to combine various subjects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to improve quality of programmes in each subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) Revamping of Higher Education is a continuous process. As informed by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC has constituted a Committee to revise the career-oriented courses (vocational courses) to make the career oriented programme more flexible and need based.

The UGC has also introduced a number of new quality initiatives, which include (i) Universities with potential for excellence; (ii) College with potential for excellence; (iii) Digital Repository of Research & Teaching Material; and (iv) UGC-Net: Intranet and Internet connectivity for Colleges and Universities, etc.

100 per cent literacy

4411. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the percentage of literate persons in the country; and